

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating a skin disorder caused by an insect bite or sting wherein a composition comprising more than 90% by weight alkanol selected from C₁₋₄ alkane-mono-ols, -diols and -triols and less than 10% by weight water, is applied to the area of skin affected by said disorder, and is retained in contact with the said area of skin for a period in the range 1 minute to 48 hours, whereby the sting or bite is cured.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the said period is in the range 5 minutes to 6 hours.
3. A method according to claim 1 in which a first dose of said composition is retained in contact with the skin for a period in the range 5 minutes to 6 hours and then a second dose of the composition is applied to the said area of skin and is retained in contact with the said area of skin for a further period in the range 5 minutes to 6 hours.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises a polymeric gelling agent dispersed or dissolved in the alkanol.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the active sting or bite curing ingredient consists essentially of said alkanol.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the said active consists essentially only of said alkanol.
7. A method according to claim 4 wherein said composition consists essentially only of alkanol, gelling agent and water.
8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the alkanol is ethanol.
9. A method of treating skin affected by an outbreak of herpes, wherein an antiviral composition consisting essentially of more than 90% by weight alkanol selected from C₁₋₄ alkane-mono-ols, -diols and -triols and less than 10% water, is contacted with the area of skin affected by

said outbreak and is retained in contact with said area for a period of at least about 1 hour.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein a first dose of the said composition is retained in contact with
5 said area for a first period of about 1 hour and then one or more further doses of said composition is (are) applied to and retained in contact with said area each for a further period of at least about 1 hour.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein, following
10 said further doses, one or more follow-up doses of said composition is (are) applied to and retained in contact with said area each for a period of about 3 to about 5 hours until said outbreak is cured.

12. A method according to claim 9 wherein the
15 composition comprises an effective gelling amount of a polymeric gelling agent dissolved or dispersed in the alcohol.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the
20 polymeric gelling agent has a molecular weight of at least about 10^4 kDa and is present in the composition in an amount in the range 0.1 to 10% by weight.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the
polymeric gelling agent is present in an amount in the range 0.5 to 2.0% by weight.

25 15. A method according to claim 9 wherein the said outbreak is of herpes labialis or herpes genitalis.

16. A method according to claim 9 wherein the
composition is applied to and retained in contact with said
30 area of skin from a cotton ball impregnated with said composition.

17. A method according to claim 9 wherein the
concentration of alkanol in the composition is at least 95%.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said
35 concentration is about 99%.

19. A method according to claim 10 wherein said first period is about 1 hour.

20. A method according to claim 10 wherein each said further period is about 1 hour and in which there are 2 to 4 said further periods.

21. A method according to claim 1 wherein said
5 concentration of alkanol is at least 95% by weight.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein said concentration is about 99% by weight.

23. A method according to claim 9 in which said alkanol is ethanol.

10 24. A method according to claim 16 in which said alkanol is ethanol.

25. A method of treating a skin eruption caused by an intracellular infection of herpes virus by applying to the infected tissue an antiviral composition consisting
15 essentially of more than 90% by weight from C₁₋₄ alkane-mono-ols and -diols, and less than 10% by weight of water.

26. A method according to claim 25 in which the alkanol is selected from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol and mixtures thereof.

20 27. A method according to claim 26 wherein the alkanol is selected from n-propanol and isopropanol and mixtures.

28. A method according to claim 26 in which the alkanol is n-propanol.

25 29. A method of treating a skin eruption caused by an intracellular infection of herpes virus by applying to the infected tissue a composition comprising at least 70% by weight n-propanol, and less than 30% by weight water.

30 30. A method of treating a skin eruption caused by an intracellular infection of herpes virus by applying to the infected tissue a composition comprising at least 80% by weight alkanol, selected from C₃- and C₄-alkane mono-ols and mixtures and less than 20% by weight water.

35 31. A composition for treating skin disorders comprising more than 90% by weight of an alkanol selected from isopropanol, n-propanol, mixtures of isopropanol and n-propanol, mixtures of propanol, selected from

isopropanol, n-propanol and mixtures thereof, and ethanol in which the ratio of propanol to ethanol is in the range 10:1 to 1:10, a polymeric gelling agent in an amount in the range 0.1 to 10% by weight and less than 10% by weight water.

32. A composition according to claim 31 comprising further an effective amount of an additional active ingredient selected from a local anaesthetic, an analgesic, an antihistamine and mixtures thereof.

33. A composition for treating skin disorders comprising more than 90% by weight of an alkanol selected from C₁, C₃ and C₄ alkanols, mixtures thereof and mixtures thereof with ethanol wherein the ratio of (C₁, C₃ and/or C₄ alkanol): ethanol is in the range 1:10 to 10:1, a polymeric gelling agent in an amount in the range 0.1 to 10% by weight and less than 10% by weight water.

34. A composition according to claim 33 comprising further an effective amount of an additional active ingredient selected from a local anaesthetic, an analgesic, an anti-histamine and mixtures thereof.

35. A composition according to claim 33 comprising further one or more vitamins dissolved or dispersed in the alcohol.

36. A composition according to claim 33 wherein the gelling agent is present in an amount in the range 0.5 to 2.0% by weight.

37. A method of treating a skin disorder by applying to the skin a composition comprising more than 90% by weight of an alkanol selected from isopropanol, n-propanol, mixtures of isopropanol and n-propanol, mixtures of propanol, selected from isopropanol, n-propanol and mixtures thereof, and ethanol in which the ratio of propanol to ethanol is in the range 10:1 to 1:10, a polymeric gelling agent in an amount in the range 0.1 to 10% by weight and less than 10% by weight water.

38. A method of treating a skin disorder by applying to the skin a composition comprising more than 90% by

weight of an alkanol selected from C₁, C₃ and C₄ alkanols, mixtures thereof and mixtures thereof with ethanol wherein the ratio of (C₁ C₃ and/or C₄ alkanol): ethanol is in the range 1:10 to 10:1, a polymeric gelling agent in an amount
5 in the range 0.1 to 10% by weight and less than 10% by weight water.

39. A composition for treating skin disorders comprising at least 70% by weight n-propanol, less than 30% by weight water and 0.1 to 10% by weight polymeric gelling
10 agent.

40. A composition for treating skin disorders comprising at least 80% by weight of an alkanol selected from C₃ and C₄ alkane-mono-ols and mixtures thereof, 0.1 to 10% by weight of a polymeric gelling agent and less than
15 10% by weight water.